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The National Bulletin.....

.. OF...

Charities AND Correction

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CHARITIES AND CORRECTION.

Address all Communications to H. H. HART, St. Paul, Minn.

Vol. 1.

NOVEMBER, 1896.

No. 1.

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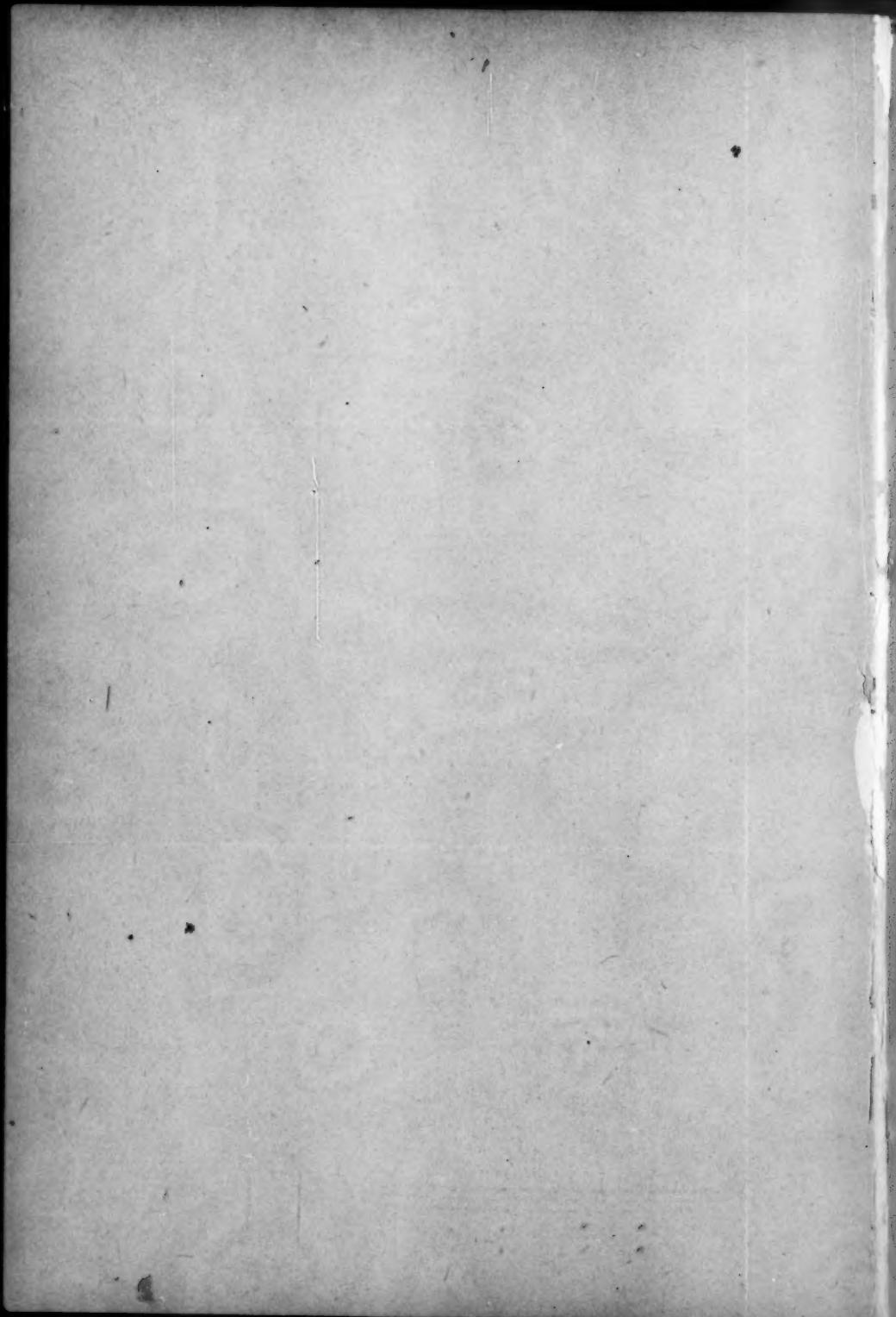
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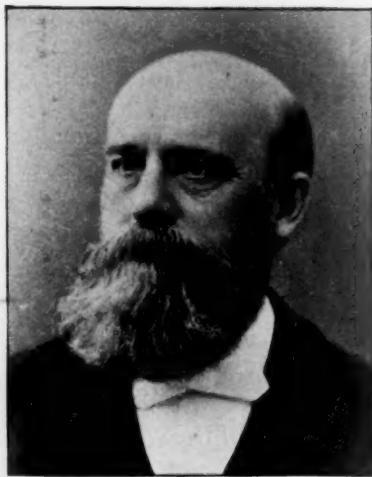
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Conferences of Charities.

1. The National Conference of Charities and Correction, at Toronto, July 7-14, 1896; president, Alexander Johnson, of Ft. Wayne, Ind. (Special meeting at New Orleans, March 3-7, 1897, immediately after Mardi Gras.)
2. The Colorado Conference of Charities and Corrections. (No meeting in 1896.)
3. The Illinois Conference of Charities and Correction, at Springfield, November, 1897; president, Rev. Jenkins Lloyd Jones, of Chicago.
4. The Indiana Conference of Charities and Correction, at Evansville, October, 1897; president, T. J. Charlton, of Plainfield.
5. The Michigan Conference of County Agents and Convention of the Board of Corrections and Charities, at Reed City, December 9-10, 1896; president, John W. Holcomb, of Grand Rapids.
6. The Minnesota Conference of Charities and Correction, at St. Cloud, Oct. 13-15, 1897; president, Dr. T. C. Clark of Stillwater.
7. The New England Conference of Charities, Correction and Philanthropy. (No meeting in 1896.)
8. The New York Convention of County Superintendents of the Poor, at Thousand Island Park, June, 1897; president, Henry Esser, Westchester.
9. The Ohio Conference of Charities and Correction, at Toledo, October, 1897; president, Capt. David Lanning, of Xenia.
10. The Pennsylvania Association of Directors of the Poor and Charities, at Scranton, October, 1897; president, Dr. James W. Walk, of Philadelphia.
11. The Wisconsin Conference of Charities and Correction, at Madison, Feb. 2-3, 1897; president, W. H. Graebner, of Milwaukee.



REV. WASHINGTON GLADDEN, D. D.,
PRESIDENT OF THE OHIO STATE CONFERENCE OF
CHARITIES AND CORRECTION, 1896.



HON. TIMOTHY NICHOLSON,
PRESIDENT INDIANA STATE CONFERENCE OF CHAR-
ITIES AND CORRECTION, 1896.



ROBERT D. MCGONNIGLE, ESQ.,
PRESIDENT PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF DIREC-
TION OF THE POOR AND CHARITIES, 1896.



MICHEL HEYMANN,
CHAIRMAN NEW ORLEANS LOCAL COMMITTEE.

THE NATIONAL Bulletin of Charities ^{AND} Correction.

VOLUME I.

NOVEMBER, 1896.

NUMBER 1.

PROSPECTUS.

For the past year, the National Conference of Charities and Correction has had an arrangement with the CHARITIES REVIEW whereby the announcements of the Conference and other matter of special interest to its members were published in that journal and it was furnished to the members of the Conference. The managers of the CHARITIES REVIEW, desiring to improve it and develop it along special lines of charity, have found it necessary to terminate this arrangement; but all members for 1896 will receive a year's subscription.

The executive committee of the National Conference of Charities and Correction, feeling the importance of some means of ready communication with the members of the Conference, has authorized the general secretary to establish THE NATIONAL BULLETIN OF CHARITIES AND CORRECTION. THE BULLETIN will follow lines somewhat similar to those pursued by the State Bulletins of Charities and Correction of Indiana, Ohio and Minnesota.

THE BULLETIN will carry the announcements and programs of the National Conference, together with some account of the work done by the State Boards of Charities, the State Conference of Charities, and other kindred organizations. It will publish papers which may be deemed of such special value as to deserve a wider circulation than can be obtained through the volume of Proceedings of the Conference.

In this issue we reprint Sec'y Bicknell's paper on "Feeble-Mindedness as an Inheritance," read at Grand Rapids.

The membership fee of the National Conference of Charities and Correction for 1897 will include THE NATIONAL BULLETIN OF CHARITIES AND CORRECTION instead of THE CHARITIES REVIEW. To those not members it will be furnished at the nominal price of 50 cents per year.

Subscriptions are invited. Subscribers who subsequently become members, will be credited with their subscription on their membership fee.

The National Conference has now 1170 members, as against 320 members in 1893. About 300 of our former members have not yet renewed their membership for 1896. It is hoped that they will do so. (See blank, inside first cover.)

THE NEW ORLEANS CONFERENCE.

At the Grand Rapids meeting of the National Conference of Charities and Correction, the committee on time and place recommended New Orleans as the place for the Conference of 1897; but the Conference decided to go to Toronto.

There was a very cordial feeling toward New Orleans and its efficient representative, Mr. Michel Heymann, and a strong desire to meet his wishes for a meeting of the Conference in that city. Accordingly, after due consideration, it was voted to hold a special meeting in New Orleans and a committee was appointed to make arrangements therefor.

The New Orleans Conference will consist of representatives of the National Conference of Charities and Correction from the Northern states, and delegates from the Southern states. It is hoped that at least fifty representatives from the Northern states will attend, and that there will be a large representation from Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Missouri, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, and Kentucky.

The Conference will meet March 3-7, 1897, immediately after the close of Mardi Gras. Delegates will be able to avail themselves of the special rates for Mardi Gras, which will probably be the same as last year, viz.: a one-fare rate

for the round trip from St. Paul, St. Louis, Chicago, Cincinnati, Washington, and points intermediate between these places and New Orleans. Special rates will be given by boat from St. Louis, Cincinnati, and other river points.

Hon. Alexander Johnson, of Fort Wayne, Ind., President of the Conference, is engaged in the preparation of the program, which will include some of the ablest speakers in the United States.

It is hoped that this meeting will do much to promote the improvements in this field which are so earnestly desired by the intelligent people of the South. The people of New Orleans will welcome the delegates with true Southern hospitality.

An efficient local committee is already at work, under Mr. Heymann's leadership. The Conference will meet in the Y. M. C. A. building. The headquarters will be at the Pickwick Hotel.

Hotel rates are offered as follows, during the Conference: (European plan, rooms only). The Pickwick Hotel, \$1.50 per day (two in one room, \$2.75); Hotel Royal, \$1.00 per day (two in a room, \$1.50). These rates do not apply to Mardi Gras.

In the next number of the Bulletin, issued February 1st, the program will be given, with full particulars as to arrangements, rates, etc.

All who have any thought of attending the Conference are requested to communicate immediately with Mr. H. H. Hart, General Secretary, St. Paul, Minn.

THE TORONTO CONFERENCE.

The Twenty-fourth National Conference of Charities and Correction will meet in Toronto, July 7-14, 1897.

The executive committee met in Toronto, Oct. 17th, 1896, to make preliminary arrangements. The committee met the local charity workers. The mayor of the city presided, and notwithstanding a violent storm, about fifty people were pres-

ent. An efficient local committee has been organized and the local arrangements will be complete in every respect.

On Sunday, Oct. 18th, President Alexander Johnson and Secretary H. H. Hart spoke in five of the prominent churches. They met with a favorable reception, and it is apparent that the local interest in Toronto will be equal to that in Grand Rapids last year.

The meetings of the Conference will be held at the normal school, which is admirably adapted to the purpose, having commodious halls of different sizes adapted both to the section meetings and the general sessions. Two evening mass meetings will be held in the beautiful pavilion located in the horticultural gardens.

The hotel accommodations will be ample, with reasonable rates, and the hotels are very conveniently located.

President Johnson has the program already well in hand. The chairmen of the different sections are hard at work and it is expected that the interest of former Conferences will be fully maintained. The indications are that the membership of the Conference of 1897 will be even larger than that of 1896. Although the membership fee is not due until Jan. 1st, 1897, membership fees are already coming in.

THE GRAND RAPIDS CONFERENCE.

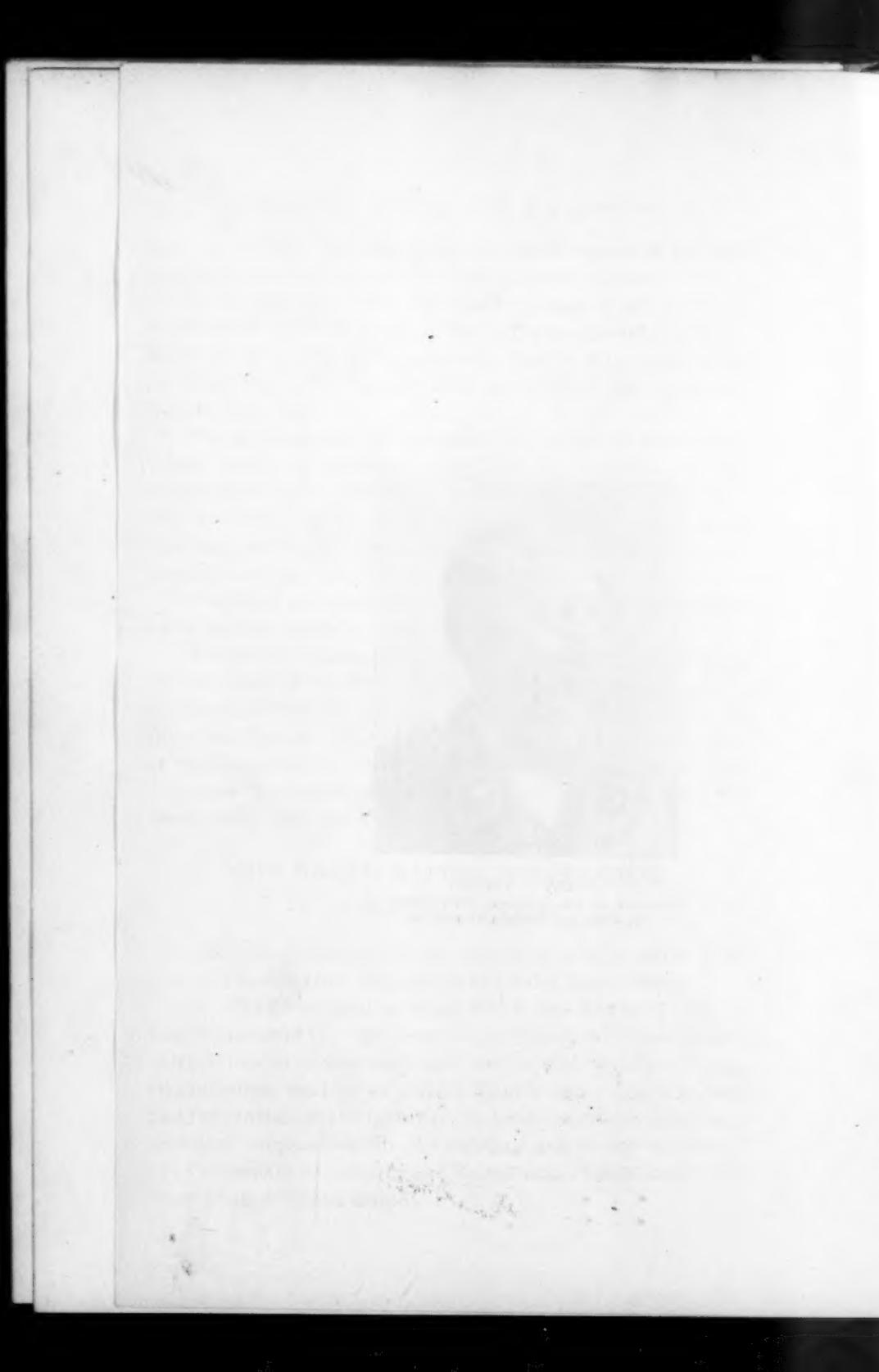
BY PRESIDENT A. O. WRIGHT.

The salient features of the twenty-third National Conference of Charities and Correction at Grand Rapids were:

1. The great local interest, which was due to the fact of the city being of the right size to welcome such a Conference—neither too large nor too small; to the fact that the Charity Organization Society of Grand Rapids was well organized and influential; to the fact that the local committee made such excellent preparation for the meeting and to the interest in the Conference aroused in and by the remarkable Ladies' Literary Club of Grand Rapids.



ALBERT O. WRIGHT,
PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF
CHARITIES AND CORRECTION FOR 1896.



2. The further development of section meetings over previous Conferences. The three old and strong sections on Charity Organization, Juvenile Reformatories and Child-Saving had carefully arranged programs and large and enthusiastic meetings. Each of these sections had larger meetings than the general meetings of previous Conferences had averaged.

3. The broader scope of the Conference, to embrace philanthropic work outside of charity in the stricter sense. A previous Conference had led out toward this broader scope by inviting the teachers of the new college work on the scientific study of the social problems to meet with the Conference. This year a further step was taken by welcoming the Social Settlements which have grown so rapidly of late. This new section held large and profitable meetings. Another step was also taken in this line by having on Sunday evening a mass meeting on "The Social Settlement and the Labor Question," with delegates from the local Labor Unions on the platform and speakers provided both by the Labor Unions and the Conference.

4. A much fuller representation than previously of persons officially interested in municipal and county charities and a closer relation of the National Conference with the increasing number of State Conferences.

THE "PROCEEDINGS" FOR 1896.

BY MRS. ISABEL C. BARROWS, OFFICIAL EDITOR.

Not only do the succeeding volumes of the Proceedings of the National Conference of Charities and Correction contain papers and reports of the different subjects coming within its province that keep the reader abreast of the times, but every year the horizon is widened and allied topics come under consideration. The volume for 1896, which will soon be off from the press, is no exception to the rule. A synopsis of the topics considered will show this.

The opening address of President A. O. Wright, entitled "The New Philanthropy," is inspiring and suggestive, and in itself is almost an epitome of what is to follow in the remainder of the book. Mr. Wright's long connection with state charities, and his sincere and intelligent interest in all matters associated therewith, make him an authority when he speaks concerning them.

No student of social science can now afford to ignore what the various settlements throughout the country are doing. Their life in detail may well be studied and the scientific information gathered by their residents among the working people, can nowhere else be duplicated. Seventy-six pages, nearly one-fifth of the volume, are devoted to "Social Settlements and the Labor Question." The twelve papers in this division would make a book by itself which every librarian should have upon his shelves. They are, in brief, a paper by Miss Julia C. Lathrop, of the Illinois State Board of Charities, one of the most active members of Hull House, Chicago, on "What the Settlement Work Stands For," a description of "Scotch and English Settlements," by Dr. W. B. Caldwell; "The Settlement in Education," by Jacob J. Abt; "The Settlement and Organized Charity," by Mary E. McDowell, of Chicago, showing the close relation in which these two useful systems stand to each other; "Social Settlements," by C. S. Loch, of London, one of the clearest thinkers along these lines and a man of vast practical experience among the poor people of England; "Civic Efforts of Social Settlements," by Katherine B. Davis, full of facts of what has been accomplished; "Settlements and Municipal Reform," by James B. Reynolds, of New York, a paper that should help workers in other cities to undertake similar efforts; "Social Settlements and Labor Movements," by Graham Taylor, whose name is a guaranty of the worth of what he says; "Benevolent Features of Trades Unions," by John D. Flanigan; "The Working Child," by Florence Kelly, who knows, as factory inspector, exactly what she is talking about,

and "Religion in the Settlement," by Dean Hodges, whose sympathies with all reforms that look to the bettering of men spiritually are equalled by his desire to better the whole man, physically, socially, intellectually and industrially, as helping thus to bring about the best outflowing of the spiritual side of humanity. These papers are followed by a table of replies to questions from 27 out of the 44 existing settlements, giving in concise form the best summary that has ever been presented of the organization and work of the settlements in this country.

The care of the insane, as usual, makes a chapter in these Proceedings, and perhaps the Wisconsin system has never been better set forth than in the paper by Mr. James E. Heg. Dr. Jules Morel, of Belgium, contributes a suggestive paper on "The Insane in Prison," with a report of the medico-psychological alienists who have been appointed for the Belgium prisons.

"The Care of Epileptics," is the title of a carefully prepared paper by Mr. William P. Letchworth, whose thoughtful contributions always add value to the Proceedings. Mr. Alexander Johnson, of the School for Feeble-Minded in Indiana, gives a resume of what is doing for this class in the United States—one had almost said of how little is doing—and Mr. Ernest Bicknell, in another paper, shows how vast is the need of doing more.

Charity Organization has able advocates in Dr. Philip W. Ayres, Professor C. R. Henderson and others.

The Merit System in Public Institutions is treated in two admirable papers, strong, cogent and just, by Mr. Philip C. Garrett, of Philadelphia, and Professor Henderson, of Chicago. Were the principles here advocated carried out in all institutions and in our government,—municipal, state, county and national,—it would so reduce the evils now existing that the Conference of Charities and Correction would have far less to do.

The volume of Proceedings contains, in addition, the annual sermon, by Professor Francis G. Peabody, several other papers, and the minutes of the meeting and discussions. The book is indexed.

STATE CONFERENCES OF CHARITIES AND CORRECTION.

THE ILLINOIS CONFERENCE.

A State Conference of Charities and Correction was called by the Board of Public Charities to meet at Springfield, November 12-13, 1896. Dr. Arthur R. Reynolds, President of the Board of Public Charities, presided. Among those in attendance were Miss Jane Addams and Miss Julia C. Lathrop, of Hull House, Dr. Fred H. Wines, Major R. W. McClaughry, Mrs. Lucy L. Flower, Dr. Clark Gopen, Judge Orrin N. Carter, Secretary H. H. Hart, of Minnesota, and Mr. John Koren, of Boston, Secretary of the "Committee of Fifty."

The papers and the discussions were of a very high order. Governor Altgeld made an address of welcome, outlining ideally the proper work of a State Conference of Charities. Judge Carter gave a most interesting paper on "The Legal Status of the Dependent Child." Prof. C. R. Henderson set forth "The Principle of Charity Organization in Towns and Villages," which was admirably illustrated by Rev. J. L. Duncan's paper, "The Progress of One Year in Streator." Miss Jane Addams spoke delightfully on "The Settlement," and Prof. Bamberger read an interesting paper on "Manual Training for Neglected Children," illustrated by a fine exhibit. Supt. S. T. Walker, assisted by some of his teachers, gave an exhibit of the methods of training in the Illinois School for the Deaf. The Springfield Conference was a most auspicious meeting.

THE INDIANA CONFERENCE.

The fifth annual Conference was held at Richmond, November 11-13, 1896. The local attendance was good; the Auditorium being filled to its fullest capacity at several meetings.

President Timothy Nicholson, in his annual address, gave a very interesting account of a "Thirty Years Struggle," being the effort for reform in the penal and charitable affairs of Indiana, which was begun in 1859 by the Indiana Yearly Meet-

ing of Friends, and lasted until, in 1889, the Board of State Charities was created.

More than half of the superintendents of the State Institutions were present and active participants.

Owing to the forthcoming biennial session of the Legislature, prison reform and also the State's work for the insane the blind and the mute received special attention. Attention was called to the need of special provision for epileptics, and the fact that there are still numerous insane and feeble-minded in the county poor asylums was deplored.

The next meeting is to be at Evansville, in October, 1897, and Supt. T. J. Charlton, of the Indiana Reform School for Boys, will be the president.

THE OHIO CONFERENCE.

The Sixth Ohio State Conference of Charities and Correction was held at Xenia, October 13-15, 1896. About 125 delegates were present from points outside Xenia.

The Ohio State Conference includes among its members many prominent charity workers. Rev. Washington Gladden, D. D., presided; and there were present Gen. R. Brinkerhoff, Judge M. D. Follett, Gen. James Barrett, Supt. H. C. Rutter, Secretary Joseph P. Byers, Supt. M. V. Crouse, and others who are known outside the boundaries of Ohio.

Governor Asa Bushnell delivered an interesting address. Dr. Gladden, in the president's address, advocated the revival of general charity work by churches, especially in the smaller communities. Miss Helen Moorhead, of Xenia, read an excellent paper on "Poor Relief in Smaller Cities." There were numerous papers of excellent quality.

The Conference was notable for the large number of county officers present, and for the animated and practical discussions. The new law, abolishing county outdoor relief and making the poor a charge upon the cities and towns, was vigorously attacked by the county directors of the poor, and was defended by the members of the Board of State Charities.

Supt. David Lanning, of the Soldiers' Orphans Home, was elected President of the Conference of 1897, at Toledo.

THE PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE.

The twenty-second annual meeting of the Association of the Directors of the Poor and Charities was held at Pittsburg, October 21-23, 1896. President Robert D. McGonnigle, of Pittsburg, was an admirable presiding officer. About 200 delegates were in attendance. The meeting was remarkable for the large attendance of county directors of the poor, who formed, apparently, a majority of the delegates.

The papers and discussions related to practical questions, dealing largely with the management of county institutions for the poor and the insane, and the administration of outdoor relief. Such subjects as the following were discussed: "Almshouses—Their Needs, Management and Discipline;" "The Care of the Sick in Almshouses;" "The Duty of the Commonwealth to Her Poor, Unfortunate and Insane;" "Statistics of the Poor and a Comparison of Expenses Under Different Systems;" "Outdoor Relief;" "Qualifications, Responsibilities and Duties of Directors of the Poor;" "How to Improve the Moral Influences in Our Almshouses;" "Industrial Schools for Dependent Children;" "Homes for Epileptics;" "Effect of Institution Life Upon Children;" "Feeble-Mindedness and Viciousness from Inheritance;" "Interstate Migration of Dependents and Criminals;" "Organized Charities;" "Institutions for the Deaf and Dumb;" etc.

Several faces familiar to the members of the National Conference of Charities and Correction were seen. President McGonnigle was an active member of the Grand Rapids Conference. Papers were read by Hon. Cadwalader Biddle, General Agent of the Board of Public Charities; Dean George Hodges, of Cambridge, Mass., formerly of Pittsburg; Dr. James W. Walk, of Philadelphia, and Secretary H. H. Hart, of Minn.

Dr. Walk was elected president of the meeting of 1897, which will be held at Scranton.

FEEBLE-MINDEDNESS AS AN INHERITANCE.*

BY ERNEST BICKNELL,

SECRETARY INDIANA BOARD OF STATE CHARITIES.

From the first generation of feeble-mindedness in any direct line of descent, we look back for explanation to complex influences which in themselves have no apparent relation to the result reached. For each subsequent generation of feeble-mindedness, in the same direct line, we find explanation in the feeble-mindedness of the parent. The intention at this time is to consider especially second and subsequent generations of mental deficiency, without endeavoring to grapple with the perplexing first causes.

No one, on first giving thoughtful attention to the prevalence of feeble-mindedness, but experiences a shock of surprise and horror at the facts which unfold before him. With every advance they grow more appalling. 95,000 feeble-minded persons in the United States: in Illinois, 5,249; in Chicago, 2,500; in Indiana, 5,568; in Indianapolis, 230; in Ohio, 8,235; in Cincinnati, 460; in Michigan, 3,218; in Grand Rapids, 160. Provision for only 6,000 of this great host in proper institutions,—poorhouses crowded, the ranks of vagrancy multiplied, vice and crime battening to satiety on helpless victims. From this knowledge springs the inevitable question, Can anything be done to prevent the perpetuation and spread of feeble-mindedness, and to remedy the evils arising from what already exists?

Before we can answer, we must obtain a knowledge of the causes and manifestations of feeble-mindedness, through investigations and comparisons. It is probable that only the slow remedy of long years of higher standards of living can reach the causes which produce the first generation of mental deficiency appearing in any family. But, if experience has demonstrated that there is danger of the first feeble-minded member of any family becoming the originator of a line of descendants characterized by the same defect, it would undoubtedly be possible to prevent such a result by denying to this person the opportunity to reproduce his kind. If, further, it can be proved that actually a large proportion of the feeble-mindedness of the

* An address made at the Twenty-third National Conference of Charities and Correction.

country is inherited from feeble-minded parents, then the value of measures which will prevent such persons from becoming parents will be very great.

It has been with a view to determine whether a large per cent. of feeble-mindedness is inherited from feeble-minded parents that I have for the last two years been gradually collecting statistics bearing more or less directly upon this question. The work has been done simply as time could be snatched from pressing duties, and the opportunity has been lacking to trace out complicated lines of relationship or search for missing links. The families with whose histories I have dealt have been paupers in part or all of their members, and much of my information has been obtained from poor asylum records. Nothing in this work has been taken for granted. Absence of facts has in every instance counted against the strength of the showing made in the statistics. If no reliable information was obtainable about an individual, he was invariably counted of sound mind, no matter how strong were inferential reasons for believing him of feeble mind. The result of this policy has been the certainty that the actual facts, could they be fully known, would perceptibly strengthen the force of the statistics collected. Of generations now living, essential facts are usually to be had, if persistently sought; of generations dead, reliable information is often impossible to get. No Boswell dogs the steps of the imbecile.

Something of the histories of 248 families have been recorded here. They are not clean cut, not properly rounded out. They begin in obscurity, come into view for a few years, and fall back into obscurity again. But the broken stories of their misery, their perpetuation of their own wretched kind, their demoralizing influence upon their fellows, their dragging down of the average of morality, intelligence, and physical development, are sorrowful beyond words.

The whole number of persons composing these 248 families is 887. Of the 395 males, 222, or 56.2 per cent., were found to be feeble-minded; and of the 492 females, 340, or 69 per cent., were feeble-minded. Of the 887 persons, therefore, 562, or 63.2 per cent., were mentally defective. It is to be noted that the feeble-mindedness among the females exceeded that among the males by 12.8 per cent. It is possible that this difference may be accounted for by the greater ease of tracing a history of feeble-mindedness in females, because the results of mental deficiency in them are usually more

visible and far-reaching than in males. This is not offered as a sufficient explanation of the difference disclosed, but only as a suggestion possibly worthy of attention.

In 101 of the 248 families under consideration has been found a history of feeble-mindedness extending through more than one generation. These supply examples of the transmittal of feeble-mindedness from parents to child. In those of the 248 families in which only one generation of mental deficiency has been discovered the feeble-mindedness could not have been inherited from feeble-minded parents, and must have been the result of other causes, of which there may be many, but which time forbids me now to discuss. We have an opportunity, therefore, to determine by a comparison whether feeble-mindedness in children is more or less likely to result from feeble-mindedness in parents than from other causes.

If the percentage of feeble-mindedness in families where there is a history of this defect, running through two or more generations, is greater than in families in which feeble-mindedness is not inherited from feeble-minded parents, then the fair inference would seem to be that mental deficiency in the parents is that condition which is most certain to result in feeble-mindedness in the offspring. The 101 families in which more than one generation of feeble-mindedness was found numbered 447 different persons. 86 families with 312 members had a record of feeble-mindedness in two generations; 12 families with 77 members had feeble-mindedness in three generations; while 2 families showed four and 1 five generations of this defect. Of the 447 persons in these 101 families in which mental deficiency was known to have descended from parents to children, 359, or 80 per cent., were found to be feeble-minded. In the remaining 147 families under consideration in this paper, in which feeble-mindedness has been found in but one generation, there were 440 different persons, of whom 203, or 46.1 per cent., were feeble-minded.

Thus we find that in families in which mental deficiency descends from parent to children the per cent. of feeble-mindedness is 80, while in those families in which feeble-mindedness is the result of all other causes the per cent. is 46.1. Other and more complete investigations must be made before these percentages can be accepted as reliable. Certainly, no other physical or mental weakness can show a hereditary transmittal in 80 out of every 100 possible opportunities.

It is worthy of note that this inquiry has once more emphasized the close relationship which exists between feeble-mindedness and those other defects of mind and body commonly regarded as hereditary. Of the 887 persons concerning whom the foregoing statistics were collected, 2.6 per cent. were epileptics, 3 per cent. insane, 8 per cent. blind, and 1.7 per cent. deaf and dumb. Compare these percentages with the percentages of the same defects in the normal population. Employing the statistics supplied by the Eleventh Federal Census, we find that in the United States in 1890 the insane composed $\frac{2}{10}$ of 1 per cent. of the population, the blind $\frac{8}{100}$ of 1 per cent., and the deaf and dumb $\frac{6}{100}$ of 1 per cent. Expressing the comparison differently, in 10,000 persons from the normal population we should expect to find 20 insane persons, 8 blind, and 6 deaf and dumb; while in a population of 10,000 belonging to families in which there is a strain of feeble-mindedness we should expect to find, according to the statistics here presented, 300 insane persons, 80 blind, and 170 deaf and dumb. Were this comparison known to be wholly trustworthy, it would prove that the causes which produce feeble-mindedness are only less terrible in their collateral effects. The constitutional weakness which permits the entrance of one of these ills seems to swing wide the doors in invitation to all the others. But we are not ready to accept the statistics which have been presented as conclusive. The number of cases on which one side of the comparison is based is far too small to afford a substantial foundation for so important a verdict. Of this comparison I think we may safely say it is significant in the direction in which it turns our thought, and that it suggests fuller investigation by different persons in various parts of the country. It is to be noted also that the comparison here made is not breaking a new path of inquiry, but follows an old trail, well defined, and serves only to add a few more finger-posts to those already set.

In any discussion of feeble-mindedness it is hardly possible to avoid referring to the prevalence of illegitimacy among this class of unfortunates. It forces itself upon the attention of the investigator at every turn, and the fact very soon becomes patent that a large per cent. of all the illegitimacy occurring in the country is to be charged to those whose mental condition makes them partially or wholly irresponsible for the evils which they produce. In collecting the statistics above presented concerning 887 persons, there were

found to be among them 186 cases of illegitimacy. That is, 21 per cent. of all the members of 248 families, in which a strain of feeble-mindedness was found, were known to be illegitimate; while the marriage bonds were so little regarded by a great many of the families that there is no doubt that the actual proportion of illegitimacy, could the truth be known, would be shown to be much greater than the 21 per cent. given. In reckoning the evils which are entailed upon society by feeble-mindedness, illegitimacy, with all the demoralization and degradation which accompany it, must be assigned a prominent place.

Did time permit, it would be of interest to refer more particularly to some of the families whose records have contributed to the statistics of feeble-mindedness and kindred evils which have been presented. A history of actual cases might convey a more vivid appreciation of the unhappy conditions surrounding and controlling the feeble-minded than is produced by the discussion of totals and percentages. I must limit illustration to the partial history of a single family.

In one of our Southern Indiana counties the poorhouse records have been preserved for thirty-five years. During that entire time one family has been represented among the pauper population. This family's pauper record probably extends yet farther back; but, since the records of an earlier date have not been saved, the statement cannot be positively made. In the thirty-five years of which a record has been kept it is found that 30 members of this family have been inmates of the poorhouse. As most of them have remained years and some have lived in the institution almost continuously since the record began, it is a fact that an average of three or four, possibly five, members of this family have been in the poorhouse at all times for fully one-third of a century. Other members have been the recipients of outdoor relief, while a few have managed to "shift for themselves" in a half-civilized manner. I have been unable to determine, even approximately, the total number of persons in the family, even since the poorhouse record began; and links in relationship are here and there missing. The following fragment of history, which I have succeeded in compiling, is sufficient, however, to illustrate the subject under consideration.

One of the oldest of the family now living was born in 1823. He is feeble-minded. His first wife was feeble-minded.

Four children were the result of this marriage, two sons and two daughters. All were feeble-minded. These children were named Mary, Margaret, Andrew, and George. The first wife died; and in his old age this man married a second time, his second choice being also a feeble-minded woman. Four children resulted from the second marriage, two of them feeble-minded; but no record of the mental condition of the other two has been found. The two daughters who were born to the first wife of this man were, as I have said, feeble-minded. Both are living to-day, and are inmates of the poor asylum. Neither has ever married. Mary has borne six or seven children. Two have been dead for years, and their mental condition is not positively known. Two daughters now living are in the School for Feeble-Minded; and a son, who died within a few years, was feeble-minded. A third daughter is feeble-minded, and is the wife of a feeble-minded man. They are not in the poor asylum, but live in a neighboring county, where they are given assistance by a township trustee. This couple has one child, of whose mental condition I have no information. The other sister, Margaret, has a daughter, feeble-minded and unmarried, and a feeble-minded son now in the School for Feeble-minded. This woman has also borne two other children, now dead, but both said to have been feeble-minded. Of the son Andrew we have no record. He is dead, and probably died in youth. The son George married a feeble-minded woman, and a feeble-minded son was born to them. George afterward separated from his wife, and later married a second feeble-minded woman. Before marriage this woman had borne a feeble-minded son by a former husband and an illegitimate feeble-minded son by George. So far as known, every member of the family has been feeble-minded. At least ten members have been illegitimate. The history of this family is not closed. In truth, its productive power for evil is probably greater to-day than at any time in its history.

Again comes the question asked in the earlier part of this paper, Can anything be done to check or prevent? I believe we are prepared to answer, Yes. The feeble-minded which we have we must keep until they die, but they need not be allowed to bring other feeble-minded into existence. Prohibition would not check the operation of the first causes of mental deficiency, but it would stop the inheritance of the defect from parents similarly afflicted. In-

complete and inconclusive as the statistics which I have here presented may be, they certainly serve to demonstrate that a very large per cent. of feeble-mindedness springs from feeble-minded progenitors. Let a stop be put to this source, and the immediate cause of the greater part of the feeble-mindedness in the country to-day would, as I believe, be removed.

The fact that feeble-mindedness may be, and often is, inherited, supplies a solid foundation upon which to base restrictive and preventive measures. The knowledge should serve to give definiteness and direction to our work, and a gauge by which to measure results. It may not assist in preventing first generations of feeble-mindedness, but it proves that second and subsequent generations may be prevented by means within our control. Whatever the differences of opinion among investigators as to first causes or chief causes, or whatever plans may be proposed for reaching and remedying or alleviating the evil, I believe it a safe conclusion, and worthy of acceptance, that, while society is remotely responsible for the first generation of feeble-mindedness in any family, its responsibility for every subsequent generation of feeble-mindedness in the same direct line of descent is clear-cut and beyond question.

FEEBLE-MINDEDNESS AND RELATED DEFECTS, TOGETHER
WITH ILLEGITIMACY, IN TWO HUNDRED AND
FORTY-EIGHT FAMILIES.

	Whole Number.	Feeble-minded.	Epileptic.	Insane.	Blind.	Deaf and Dumb.	Illegitimate.
Males	395	222	13	7	2	5	101
Females	492	340	10	20	5	10	85
Total	887	562	23	27	7	15	186
Families	248						
Average number of persons to each family	3.58	2.27					.75
Percentage of whole number		63.4	2.6	3	.8	1.7	20.9
Percentage of males	44.6	56.2	3.3	1.8	.5	1.3	25.6
Percentage of females	55.4	69	2	4.1	1	2	17.3

FEEBLE-MINDEDNESS IN FAMILIES CONTAINING TWO OR
MORE GENERATIONS OF MENTAL DEFICIENCY.

Number of Generations of Feeble-mindedness in Each Family.	Number of Families.	Whole Number of Persons.	Number of Feeble-minded Persons.	Percentage of Feeble-mindedness.
Two	86	312	261	83.6
Three	12	77	53	68.8
Four	2	51	38	74.5
Five	1	7	7	100.0
Total	101	447	359	80.0

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